

# **2016 CCR - Piney Creek Corp.**

**(PWSID MD 017-0021, Queen Anne's County)**

## **Is my water safe?**

We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to inform Swan Cove Lane residents about the quality of water and services we deliver every day. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. This report covers the year from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

The source of our drinking water is one well drilled into the Aquia aquifer, which lies about 210 feet beneath the ground. The Aquia is an underground layer of porous sand saturated with water and confined on the top and bottom by impervious layers of clay through which we pump water directly into our distribution system after disinfecting with chlorine. Water in this aquifer is continuously replenished by surface water percolating through porous soils in southern Kent County and northern Queen Anne's County. As the water moves through the porous soils, it is purified while at the same time it dissolves minerals such as iron, calcium, etc., from the soils.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

A source water assessment was performed by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). This assessment outlines the potential sources of contamination for our raw water supply. The final report was issued in the spring of 2010. The susceptibility analysis for Piney Creek Corporation's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. Piney Creek Corporation's water supply is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the land surface due to the protected nature of confined aquifer, except for microbiological contaminants due to the location of the supply well in an area subject to tidal flooding.

The Corporation's drinking water meets Federal and State standards. The following report is in compliance with Federal EPA regulations and is provided annually to the consumer. This report outlines the quality of our drinking water and what that quality means. The Corporation has hired Ken Shupe to operate and maintain our water system. We also monitor the quality of water we distribute to the consumer following guidelines established by Federal and State regulations.

If you have any questions about this report or the water utility, please contact Jim Coffey, 410-643-4146.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Piney Creek Corporation routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the following page shows required monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2015. Bacteria are monitored monthly at specific locations throughout the distribution system. A permanent chlorine disinfection system was added in October of 2004 to correct occasional positive bacteria test results encountered prior to that, and there were no positive bacteria test results in 2015.

### **How can I get involved?**

Please be sure to attend our annual Piney Creek Corporation meetings, as well as any special meetings. These are the meetings at which our well and water status is reviewed. If I can be of help, please contact me, Jim Coffey, 305 Swan Cove Lane, Chester, MD, or at 410-643-4146.

### **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine, in the case of PCC, or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

### Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Piney Creek Corporation Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	6.78	6.78	6.78	7/20/15	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	ND	ND	ND	7/20/15	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	< 1.0	< 1.0	< 1.0	1/14/15	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.051	0.051	0.051	11/3/14	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	4	4	1.2	0	1.2	Mnthly 2015	No	Water additive used to control micorbes
Arsenic (ppb)	0	0.01	< 0.005	NA		11/3/14	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.28	NA		4/8/14	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.076	8/28/14	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	< 0.005	8/28/14	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

**For more information please contact:**

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